

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Amended) An image formation system comprising:

a plurality of image formation apparatuses connected together, each image of the formation apparatuses having an image input section for inputting a draft image and an image output section for outputting the draft image, a predetermined one of the plurality of the image formation apparatuses reading the draft image at the image input section of the predetermined image formation apparatus, and the plurality of the image formation apparatuses receiving outputs of the draft image at their image output sections;

a preparing unit which prepares calibration data containing calibration patterns being collected at the image input section of the predetermined image formation apparatus to be received at the image output section of each of the image formation apparatus; and

a correcting unit which corrects the draft image input from the image output section of the predetermined image formation apparatus based on the calibration data prepared by the preparing unit.

2. (Original) The image formation system according to claim 1, wherein the correcting unit further comprises:

a parameter calculating unit which calculates image processing parameters relating to read characteristics of the image input section of the predetermined image formation apparatus and print characteristics of the image output sections of the plurality of the image formation apparatuses, based on the calibration data prepared by the preparing unit; and

a converting unit which converts the draft image input from the image input section of the predetermined image formation apparatus, using the image processing parameters calculated by the parameter calculating unit.

3. (Original) The image formation system according to claim 2, wherein the parameter calculating unit calculates image processing parameters to be used for a gradation conversion by comparing the calibration data with predetermined target data.

4. (Original) The image formation system according to claim 2, further comprising a parameter memory for storing image processing parameters calculated by the parameter calculating unit, wherein the converting unit converts the draft image input from the image input section of the predetermined image formation apparatus using the image processing parameters stored in the parameter memory only when the draft image input by the image input section of the predetermined image formation apparatus is to be output from the image output section of another one on the image formation apparatus among the plurality of the image formation apparatuses.

5. (Original) The image formation system according to claim 1, wherein the preparing unit resides in the predetermined image formation apparatus, and each of the plurality of the image formation apparatuses comprises the correcting unit.

6. (Original) The image formation system according to claim 1, wherein the image input section is a color scanner, and the image output section is a color printer.

7. (Previously Amended) An image formation system comprising:

a plurality of image formation apparatuses connected together, each of the image formation apparatuses having an image input section for inputting a draft image and an image output section for outputting the draft image, each of the image formation apparatuses reading a draft image at its image input section, and a predetermined one of the plurality of image formation apparatuses receiving an output of the draft images at the image output section of the predetermined image formation apparatus;

a preparing unit which prepares calibration data containing calibration patterns being collected at the image input section of each of the image formation apparatuses to be received at the image output section of the predetermined image formation apparatus; and

a correcting unit which corrects the draft images input from the image output sections of the plurality of image formation apparatuses based on the calibration data prepared by the preparing unit.

8. (Original) The image formation system according to claim 7, wherein the correcting unit comprises:

a parameter calculating unit which calculates image processing parameters relating to read characteristics of the image input sections of the plurality of image formation apparatuses and print characteristics of the image output section of the predetermined image formation apparatus, based on the calibration data prepared by the preparing unit; and

a converting unit which converts the draft images input from the image input sections of the plurality of the image formation apparatuses, using the image processing parameters calculated by the parameter calculating unit.

9. (Original) The image formation system according to claim 8, wherein the parameter calculating unit calculates image processing parameters to be used for a gradation conversion, by comparing the calibration data with predetermined target data.

10. (Original) The image formation system according to claim 8, further comprising:

a parameter memory which stores the image processing parameters calculated by the parameter calculating unit, wherein the converting unit converts the draft image input from the image input section of each of the image formation apparatuses using the image processing parameters stored in the parameter memory, only when the draft image input

by the image input section of each of the image formation apparatuses is to be output from the image output section of the predetermined image formation apparatus.

11. (Original) The image formation system according to claim 7, wherein each of the plurality of the image formation apparatuses comprises the preparing unit, and the correcting unit resides in the predetermined image formation apparatus .

12. (Original) The image formation system according to claim 7, wherein the image input section is a color scanner, and the image output section is a color printer.

13. (Previously Amended) An image formation method using a plurality of image formation apparatuses connected together, each image formation apparatus having an image input section for inputting a draft image and an image output section for outputting the draft image, comprising the steps of:

- (a) reading a draft image at the image input section of a predetermined one of the plurality of the image formation apparatuses;

- (b) transmitting, outputs of the draft image to the image output sections of the plurality of the image formation apparatuses;

- (c) preparing calibration data containing calibration patterns being collected at the image input section of the predetermined image formation apparatus to be output to the image output section of each of the image formation apparatuses; and

- (d) correcting the draft image input from the image input section of the predetermined image formation apparatus based on the calibration data prepared at the step (c).

14. (Previously Amended) The image formation method according to claim 13, wherein the step (b) further comprises the steps of:

(e)calculating image processing parameters relating to read characteristics of the image input section of the predetermined image formation apparatus and print characteristics of the image output sections of the plurality of the image formation apparatuses based on the calibration data prepared at the step (c); and

(f)converting the draft image input from the image input section of the predetermined image formation apparatus using the image processing parameters calculated at the step (e).

15. (Original) The image formation method according to claim 14, wherein the image processing parameters are used for a gradation conversion , and wherein the image processing parameters are calculated by comparing the calibration data with predetermined target data.

16. (Previously Amended) The image formation method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of:

(g) storing the image processing parameters in a parameter memory after the step (e), wherein the step (f) is carried out after the step (g) only when the draft image input from the image input section of the predetermined image formation apparatus is to be output from the image output section of the image formation apparatuses.

17. (Previously Amended) The image formation method according to claim 13, wherein the step (c) is carried out in the predetermined image formation apparatus and wherein the step (d) is carried out in each of the plurality of the image formation apparatuses.

18. (Previously Amended) The image formation method according to claim 13, wherein the image input section is a color scanner, and the image output section is a color printer.

19. (Previously Amended) An image formation method using a plurality of image formation apparatuses connected together, each of the image formation apparatuses having an image input section for inputting a draft image and an image output section for outputting the draft image, comprising the steps of:

- (a) reading a draft image at the image input section of each of the plurality of image formation apparatuses;
- (b) transmitting outputs of the draft images to the image output section of a predetermined one of the plurality of the image formation apparatuses;
- (c) preparing calibration data containing calibration patterns collected at the image input section of each of the image formation apparatuses to be output from the image output section of the predetermined image formation apparatus; and
- (d) correcting the draft images input from the image input sections of the plurality of the image formation apparatuses based on the calibration data prepared at the preparing the step (c).

20. (Previously Amended) The image formation method according to claim 19, wherein the step (d) further comprises:

- (e) calculating image processing parameters relating to read characteristics of the image input sections of the plurality of the image formation apparatuses and print characteristics of the image output section of the predetermined image formation apparatus based on the calibration data prepared at the preparing step; and
- (f) converting the draft images input from the image input sections of the plurality of the image formation apparatuses, using the image processing parameters calculated at the step (e).

21. (Original) The image formation method according to claim 20, wherein the image processing parameters are used for a gradation conversion, and wherein the image processing parameters are calculated by comparing the calibration data with predetermined target data.

22. (Previously Amended) The image formation method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of:

(g) storing the image processing parameters in a parameter memory, wherein the step (f) is carried out after the step (g), and wherein the step (f) is carried out

only when the draft image input by the image input section of each the image formation apparatus is to be output from the image output section of the predetermined image formation apparatus.

23. (Previously Amended) The image formation method according to claim 19, wherein the step (c) is carried out in each of the plurality of the image formation apparatuses, and wherein the step (d) is carried out in the predetermined image formation apparatus.

24. (Original) The image formation method according to claim 19, wherein the image input section is a color scanner, and the image output section is a color printer.

25. (Previously Amended) A computer-readable recording medium that stores a computer program encoding an image formation method, which employs a plurality of image formation apparatuses connected together, each of the image formation apparatuses having an image input section for inputting a draft image and an image output section for outputting the draft image, wherein the computer-readable recording medium storing the image formation method comprising the steps of:-

(a) reading a draft image at the image input section of a predetermined one of the plurality of image formation apparatuses;

(b) transmitting outputs of the draft image to the image output sections of the plurality of the image formation apparatuses;

(c) preparing calibration data containing calibration patterns being collected at the image input section of the predetermined image formation apparatus to be output from the image output section of each image formation apparatus; and

(d) correcting the draft image input from the image input section of the predetermined image formation apparatus based on the calibration data prepared at the preparing step (c).

26. (Previously Amended) A computer program in an image formation method, which employs a plurality of image formation apparatuses connected together, each of the image formation apparatuses having an image input section for inputting a draft image and an image output section for outputting the draft image, wherein the image formation method comprises the steps of:

(a) reading a draft image at the image input section in a predetermined one of the plurality of the image formation apparatuses;

(b) transmitting outputs of the draft image to the image output sections of the plurality of the image formation apparatuses;

(c) preparing calibration data containing calibration patterns being collected at the image input section of the predetermined image formation apparatus to be output from the image output section of each of the image formation apparatuses; and

(d) correcting the draft image input from the image input section of the predetermined image formation apparatus based on the calibration data prepared at the step (c).

27. (Previously Amended) A computer-readable recording medium that stores a computer program encoding an image formation method, which employs a plurality of image formation apparatuses connected together, each of the image formation



apparatuses having an image input section for inputting a draft image and an image output section for outputting the draft image, wherein the image formation method comprises the steps of:

- (a) reading a draft image at the image input section of each of the image formation apparatuses;
- (b) transmitting outputs of the draft images to its image output section of a predetermined one of the image formation apparatuses ,
- (c) preparing calibration data containing calibration patterns being collected at the image input section of each of the image formation apparatuses to be output from the image output section of the predetermined image formation apparatus; and
- (d) correcting the draft image input from the image input section of each of the plurality of the image formation apparatuses based on the calibration data prepared at the preparing step.

28. (Previously Amended) A computer program in an image formation method, which employs a plurality of image formation apparatuses connected together, each of the image formation apparatuses having an image input section for inputting a draft image and an image output section for outputting the draft image, wherein the image formation method comprises the steps:

- (a) reading a draft image at the image input section of each of the image formation apparatuses;
- (b) transmitting outputs of the draft images to the image output section of a predetermined one of the image formation apparatus;
- (c) preparing calibration data containing calibration patterns being collected at the image input section of each one of the image formation apparatuses to be output from the image output section of the predetermined image formation apparatus; and

(d) correcting the draft image input from the image input section of each of the plurality of image formation apparatuses based on the calibration data prepared at the step (c).

29. (Previously Amended) An image formation system comprising:

a plurality of image formation apparatuses connected together, each of the image formation apparatuses having an image input section for inputting a draft image and an image output section for outputting the draft image, at least a first one of the image formation apparatuses reading a draft image at the input section, and a second one of the image formation apparatuses producing an output of the draft image from the image output section, wherein the first one of the image formation apparatuses further comprises:

a first memory which stores first instrumental error correction values corresponding to read characteristics of the image input section of the first image formation apparatus; and

an output unit which outputs the second image formation apparatus the draft image read at the image input section of the first image formation apparatus and the first instrumental error correction values stored in the first memory, and the second image formation apparatuses further comprises:

a second memory which stores second instrumental error correction values corresponding to read characteristics of the image input section of the second image formation apparatus;

an image processing parameter preparing unit which prepares image processing parameters corresponding to the read characteristics of the image input section of the first image formation apparatus by changing the image processing parameters of the second image formation apparatus based on the first instrumental error correction values output from the first image formation apparatuses and the second instrumental error correction values stored in the second memory; and

a correcting unit which corrects the draft image read at the image input section of the first image formation apparatus, based on the image processing parameters prepared by the image processing parameter preparing unit.

30. (Original) The image formation system according to claim 29, wherein the image processing parameter preparing unit further comprises:

an intra-apparatus parameter preparing unit which prepares image processing parameters corresponding to the read characteristics of the image input section of the second image formation apparatus by comparing a target value containing calibration data obtained by reading at the image input section of the second image formation apparatus with calibration patterns printed out from the image output section of the second image formation apparatus; and

an inter-apparatus parameter preparing unit which prepares image processing parameters corresponding to the read characteristics of an image input section of the first image formation apparatuses by changing the image processing parameters corresponding to the read characteristics of the image input section of the second image formation prepared by the intra-apparatus parameter preparing unit based on the first instrumental error correction values output from the first image formation apparatus and the second instrumental error correction values corresponding to the read characteristics of the image input section of the second image formation apparatus.

31. (Original) The image formation system according to claim 30, wherein the correcting unit corrects the draft image read at the image input section of the first image formation apparatus based on the image processing parameters prepared by the inter-apparatus parameter preparing unit, and also corrects the draft image read at the image input section of the second image formation apparatus based on the image processing parameters prepared by the intra-apparatus parameter preparing unit.

32. (Original) The image formation system according to claim 29, further comprising:  
a server for storing a draft image output from the first image formation apparatuses and the first instrumental error correction values corresponding to the read characteristics of the image input section of the first apparatus by relating the draft image to the first instrumental error correction values, and transmitting the stored draft image and the corresponding instrumental error correction values to the second image formation apparatus according to a transmission request from the second one or few image formation apparatuses.

33. (Original) The image formation system according to claim 29, wherein the image input section is a scanner, and the image output section is a color printer.

34. (Original) The image formation system according to claim 29, wherein the plurality of the image formation apparatuses are connected via a network.

35. (Previously Amended) A first image formation apparatus connected with a second image formation apparatus to carry out data communications with each other, comprising:

an image input section which reads a draft image and converts the draft image into image data;

an image output section which prints out the image data that is read at the image input section;

a memory which stores first instrumental error correction values corresponding to read characteristics of the image input section; and

a transmitting unit which transmits to the second image formation apparatus the draft image read at the image input section and the first instrumental error correction values corresponding to the read characteristics of the image input section stored in the memory.

36. (Original) The first image formation apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the image input section is a scanner, and the image output section is a color printer.

37. (Original) The first image formation apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the first image formation apparatus is connected with the second image formation apparatus via a network.

38. (Previously Amended) A first image formation apparatus connected with a second image formation apparatus to carry out data communications with each other, the first image formation apparatus and the second image formation apparatus each comprising:

- an image input section which reads a draft image and converts the draft image into image data;

- an image output section which prints out the image data that is read at the image input section;

- a memory which stores second instrumental error correction values corresponding to read characteristics of the image input section;

- a receiving unit which receives a draft image that is read at the image input section of the second image formation apparatus and first instrumental error correction values corresponding to read characteristics of the image input section of the second image formation apparatus;

- an image processing parameter preparing unit which prepares image processing parameters corresponding to the read characteristics of the image input section of the second image formation apparatus received by the receiving unit by changing the image processing parameters of the first image formation apparatus based on the first instrumental error correction values received by the receiving unit and the second instrumental error correction values stored in the memory; and

a correcting unit which corrects the draft image read at the image input section of the second image formation apparatus received by the receiving unit based on the image processing parameters prepared by the image processing parameter preparing unit.

39. (Original) The first image formation apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the image processing parameter preparing unit further comprises:

an intraapparatus parameter preparing unit which prepares image processing parameters corresponding to the read characteristics of the image input section of the first apparatus by comparing a target value with calibration data obtained by reading at the image input section of the first apparatus calibration patterns printed out from the image output section of the first apparatus; and

an inter-apparatus parameter preparing unit which prepares image processing parameters corresponding to the read characteristics of an image input section of the second image formation apparatus received by the receiving unit by changing the image processing parameters corresponding to the read characteristics of the image input section of the first apparatus prepared by the intra-apparatus parameter preparing unit based on the first instrumental error correction values received by the receiving unit and the second instrumental error correction values stored in the memory.

40. (Original) The image formation apparatus according to claim 39, wherein the correcting unit corrects the draft image read at the image input section of the second image formation apparatus based on the image processing parameters prepared by the inter-apparatus parameter preparing unit, and the correcting unit also corrects the draft image read at the image input section of the first apparatus based on the image processing parameters prepared by the intra-apparatus parameter preparing unit.

41. (Original) The first image formation apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the image input section is a scanner, and the image output section is a color printer.

42. (Original) The first image formation apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the first image formation apparatus is connected with the second image formation apparatus via a network.

43. (Previously Amended) An image formation method comprising the steps of:

(a) reading an image of a draft at an image input section of a first image formation apparatus; and

(b) transmitting the draft image read at the image input section of the first image formation apparatus and first instrumental error correction values corresponding to read characteristics of the image input section of the first image formation apparatus from a memory to an image output section of a second image formation apparatus connected to the first image formation apparatus.

44. (Original) The image formation method according to claim 43, wherein the image input section is a scanner, and the image output section is a color printer.

45. (Original) The image formation method according to claim 43, wherein the first image formation apparatus is connected with the second image formation apparatus via a network.

46. (Original) An image formation method comprising:

(a) receiving a draft image at an image input section of a second image formation apparatus and first instrumental error correction values corresponding to read characteristics of the image input section of the second image formation apparatus;

(b) preparing image processing parameters corresponding to the read characteristics of the image input section of the second image formation apparatus by changing the image processing parameters of a first image formation apparatus connected to the second image formation apparatus based on the first instrumental error correction

values and second instrumental error correction values corresponding to the read characteristics of an image input section of the first apparatus stored in a memory;

(c) correcting the draft image read at the image input section of the second image formation apparatus based on the image processing parameters prepared in the step (b); and

(d) printing out the draft image corrected in the step (c) at an image output section of the first image formation apparatus.

47. (Original) The image formation method according to claim 46, wherein the step (b) further comprises:

(e) preparing image processing parameters corresponding to the read characteristics of the image input section of the first image formation apparatus by comparing a target value with calibration data obtained by reading at the image input section of the first image formation apparatus with calibration patterns printed out from the image output section of the first image formation apparatus; and

(f) preparing image processing parameters corresponding to the read characteristics of the image input section of the second image formation apparatus, by changing the image processing parameters corresponding to the read characteristics of the image input section of the first image formation apparatus prepared, based on the first instrumental error correction values received and the second instrumental error correction values corresponding to the read characteristics of the image input section of the first image formation apparatus stored in the memory.

48. (Original) The image formation method according to claim 47, wherein in the step (c), the draft image read at the image input section of the second image formation apparatus is corrected based on the image processing parameters prepared at the step (f), and the draft image read at the image input section of the first the formation apparatus is corrected based on the image processing parameters prepared at the step (e).



49. (Original) The image formation method according to claim 46, wherein the image input section is a scanner, and the image output section is a color printer.

50. (Original) The image formation method according to claim 46, wherein the first image formation apparatus is connected with the second image formation apparatus via a network.

51. (Previously Amended) A computer program performing the tasks of:

- (a) reading a draft image at an image input section of a first image formation apparatus;

- (b) transmitting the draft image read at the image input section and first instrumental error correction values corresponding to read characteristics of the image input section stored in a memory to a second image formation apparatus connected to the first image formation apparatus; and

- (c) correcting the received draft image read at the image input section of the first image formation apparatus based upon the first instrumental error correction values.

52. (Previously Amended) A computer program performing the tasks of:

- (a) receiving a draft image read at an image input section of a second image formation apparatus and first instrumental error correction values corresponding to read characteristics of the image input section of the second image formation apparatus;

- (b) preparing image processing parameters corresponding to the read characteristics of the image input section of the second image formation apparatus by changing the image processing parameters of a first image formation apparatus based on the first instrumental error correction values received and second instrumental error correction values corresponding to read characteristics of an image input section of the first image formation apparatus stored in a memory;

(c) correcting the received draft image read at the image input section of the second image formation apparatus based on the image processing parameters prepared at the step (b); and

(d) printing out the draft image corrected at the step (c) at an image output section of the first image formation apparatus.